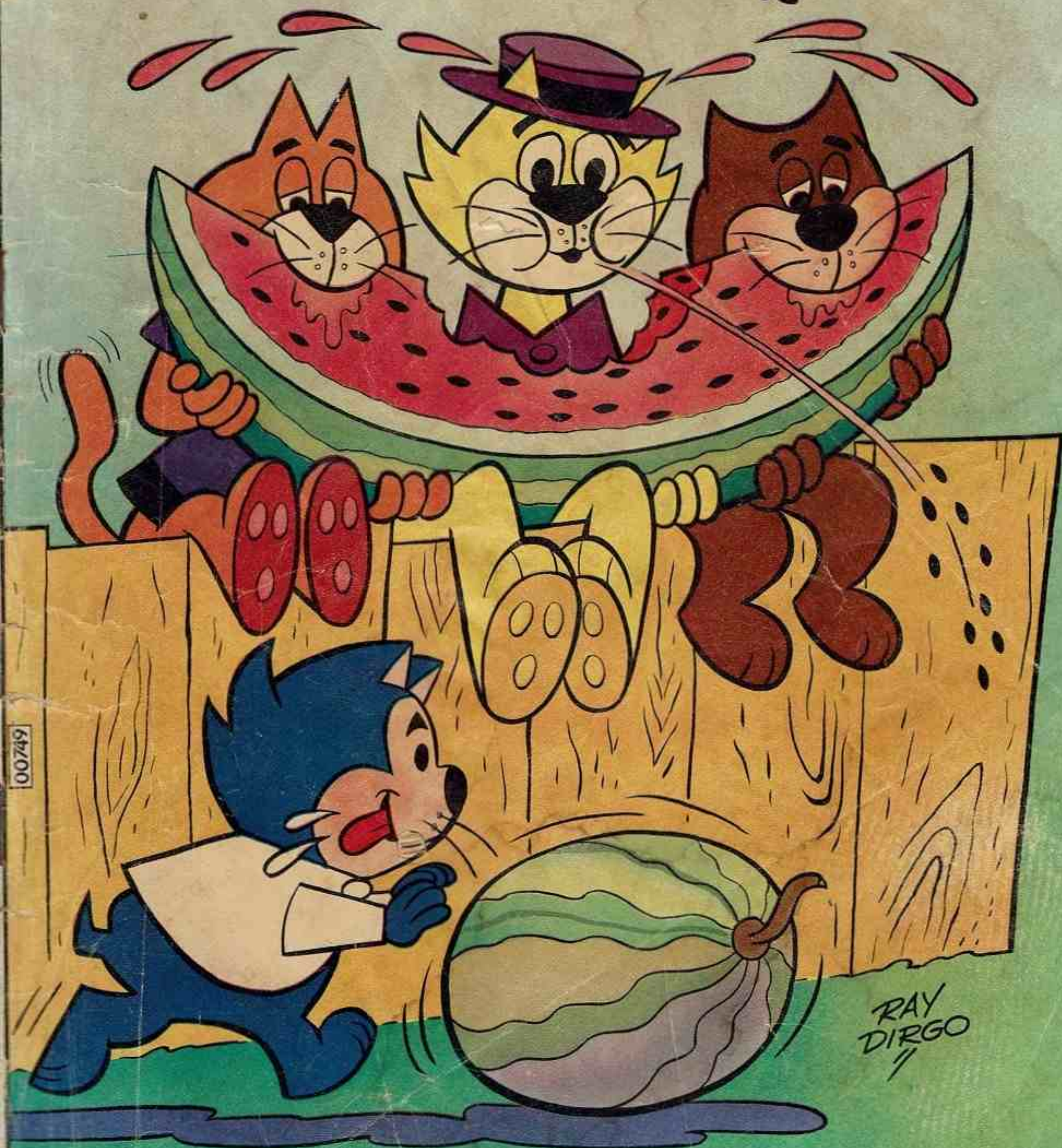


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TOP CAT  
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CDC  
ONLY  
20¢

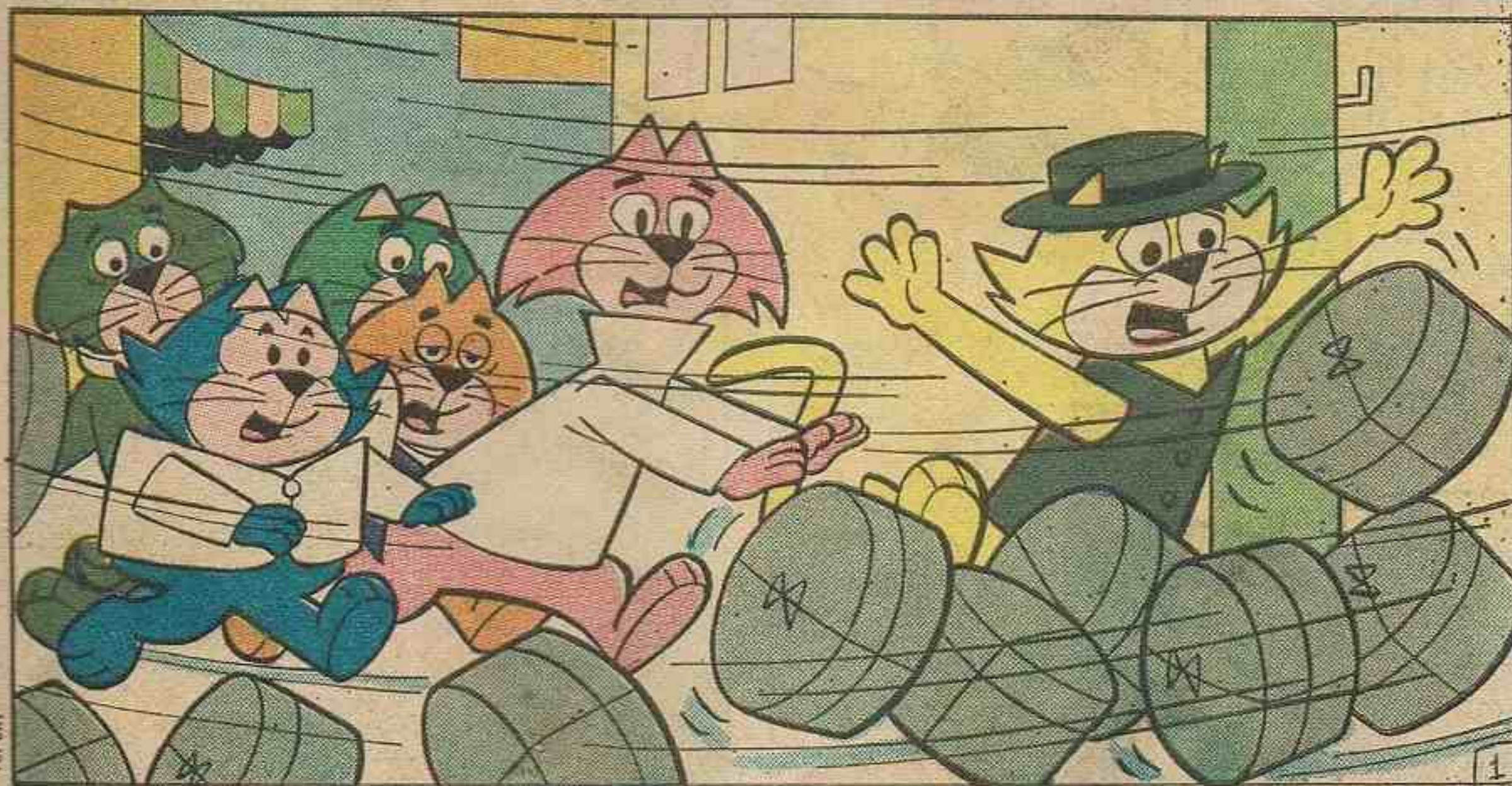
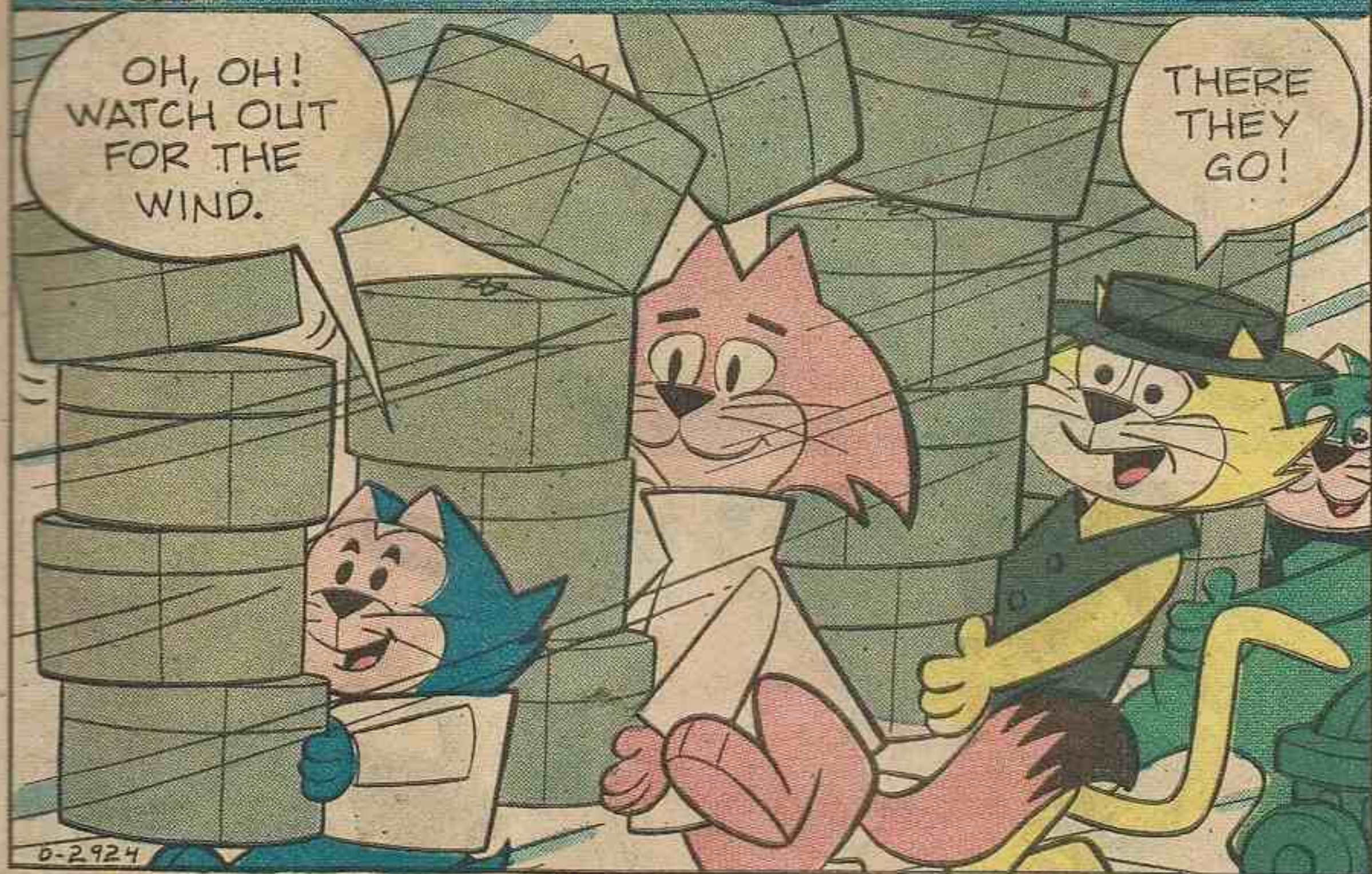
# TOP CAT



RAY  
DIRGO



# TOP CAT "WHAT'S OFF"



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**TOP CAT** <sup>in</sup> **3 CHEERS**  
G. KRAUSE / R. DIRGO

**for BENNY!**

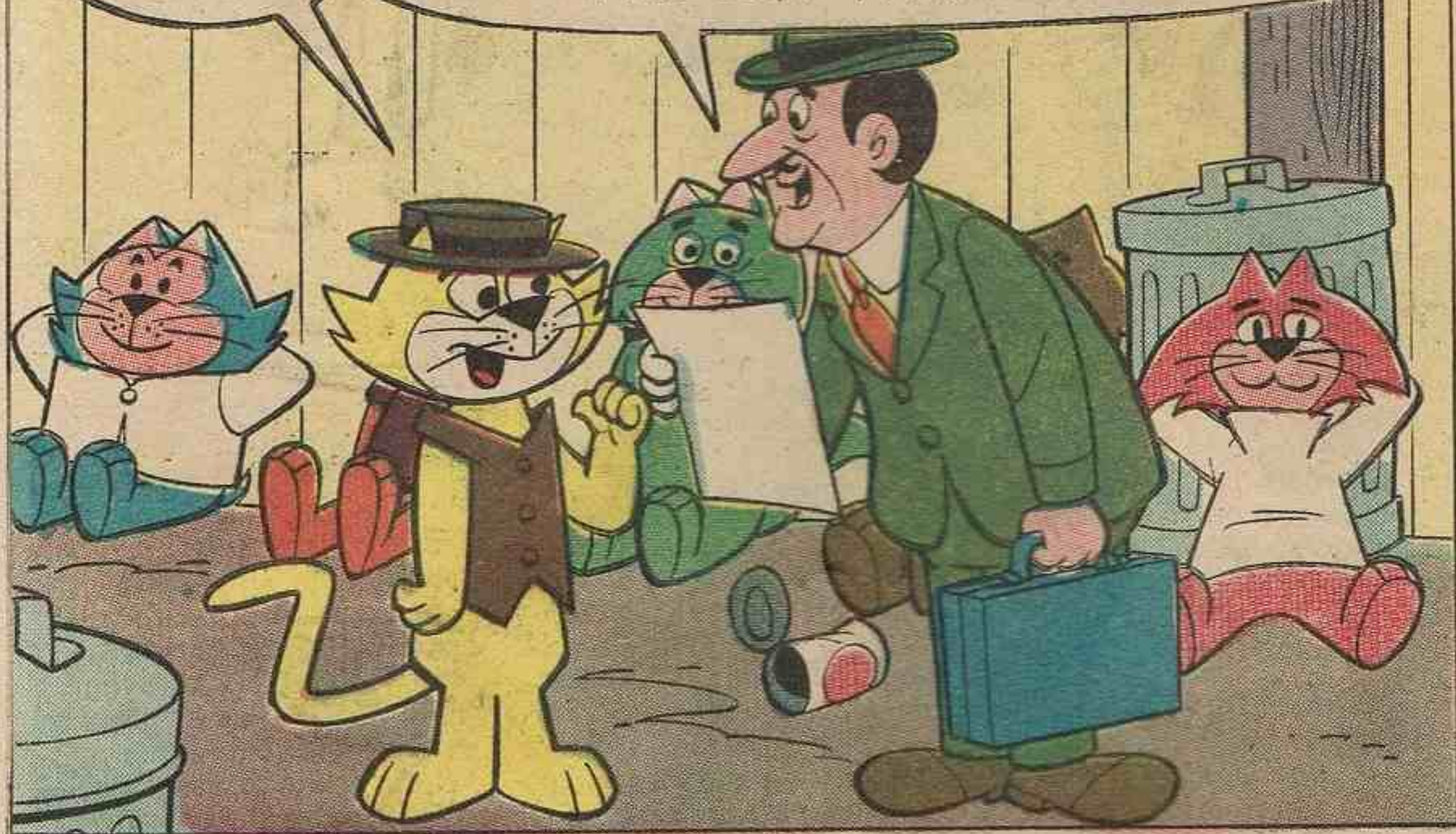




# TOP Cat "SHIP AHOY"

YES, I'M  
TOP CAT.

I'M LAWYER MUDGE. YOUR GREAT-UNCLE  
FRED DIED AND LEFT YOU HIS YACHT,  
THE SEA HAWK



WHATTYA KNOW!  
I OWN A YACHT.



IT LOOKS  
GREAT, HUH,  
BENNY?

AYE AYE,  
CAP'N.











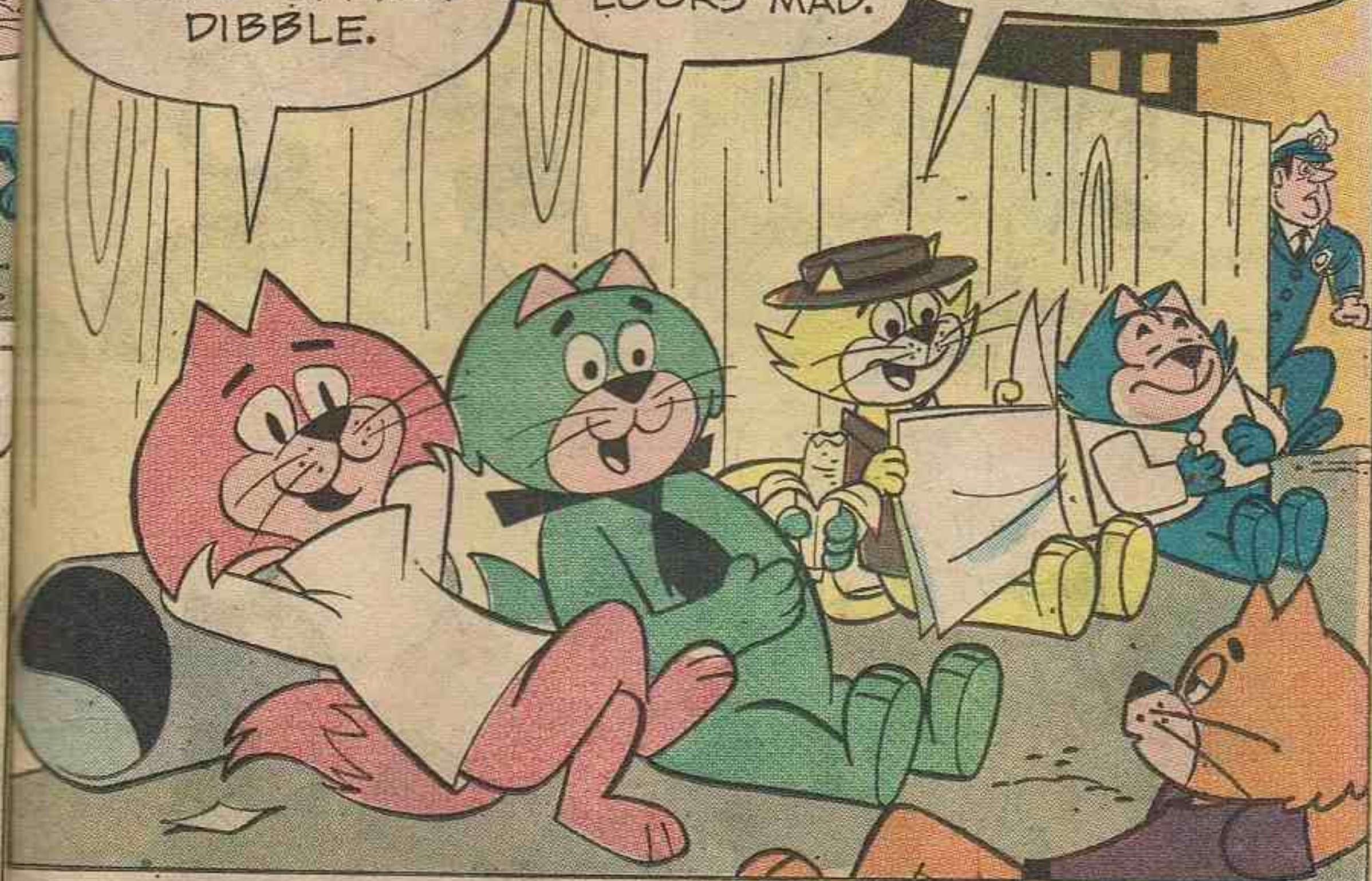


# TOP "SEEING IS BELIEVING" Cat

UH-OH. HERE COMES OFFICER DIBBLE.

AND HE LOOKS MAD.

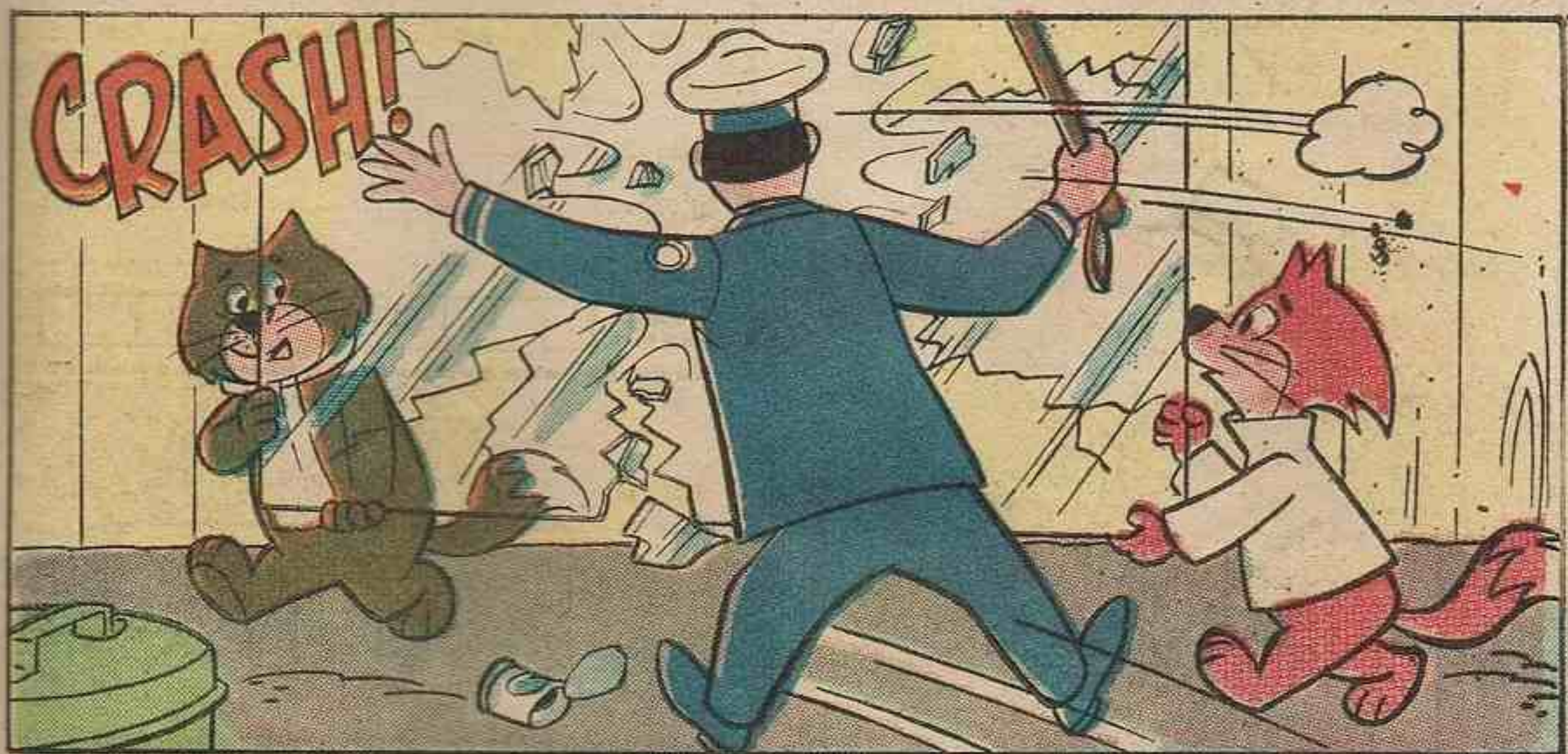
OKAY, EVERYBODY LOOK BUSY!













# TOP CAT HOUSE CATS

YOU SURE THIS IS  
THE RIGHT ADDRESS  
OFFICER DIBBLE  
GAVE YOU, T.C.?

4112 BAMBOO  
TERRACE,  
THAT'S RIGHT,  
FELLAS!



D-3388

GWEN KRAUSE / RAY DIRGO

DIBBLE MUST  
BE PLAYING A  
JOKE ON US,  
T.C.!

EMPLOYMENT



AS MUCH AS I HATE TO DO  
IT, LET'S GO IN AND SEE  
IF IT *IS* A JOKE!





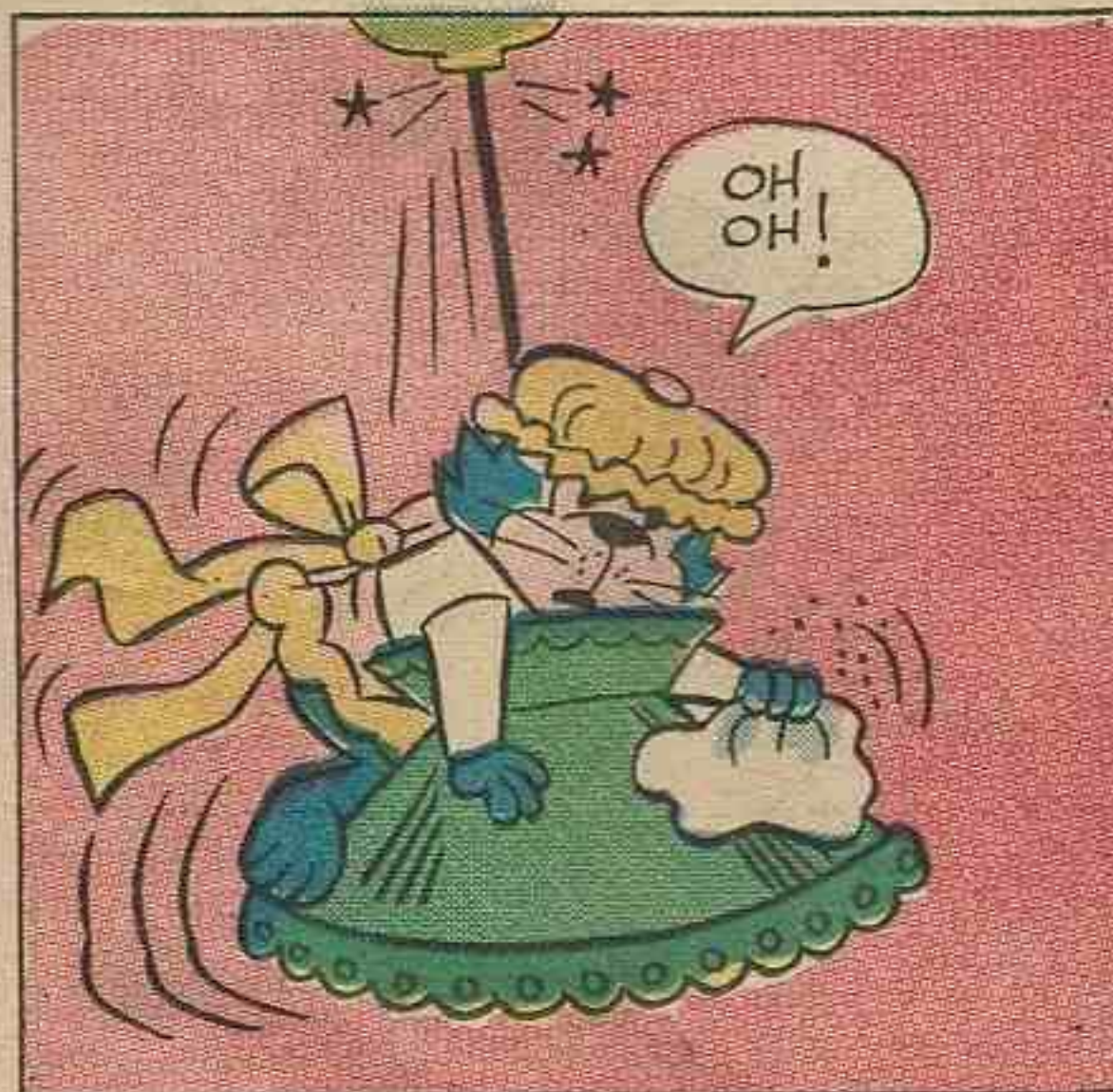
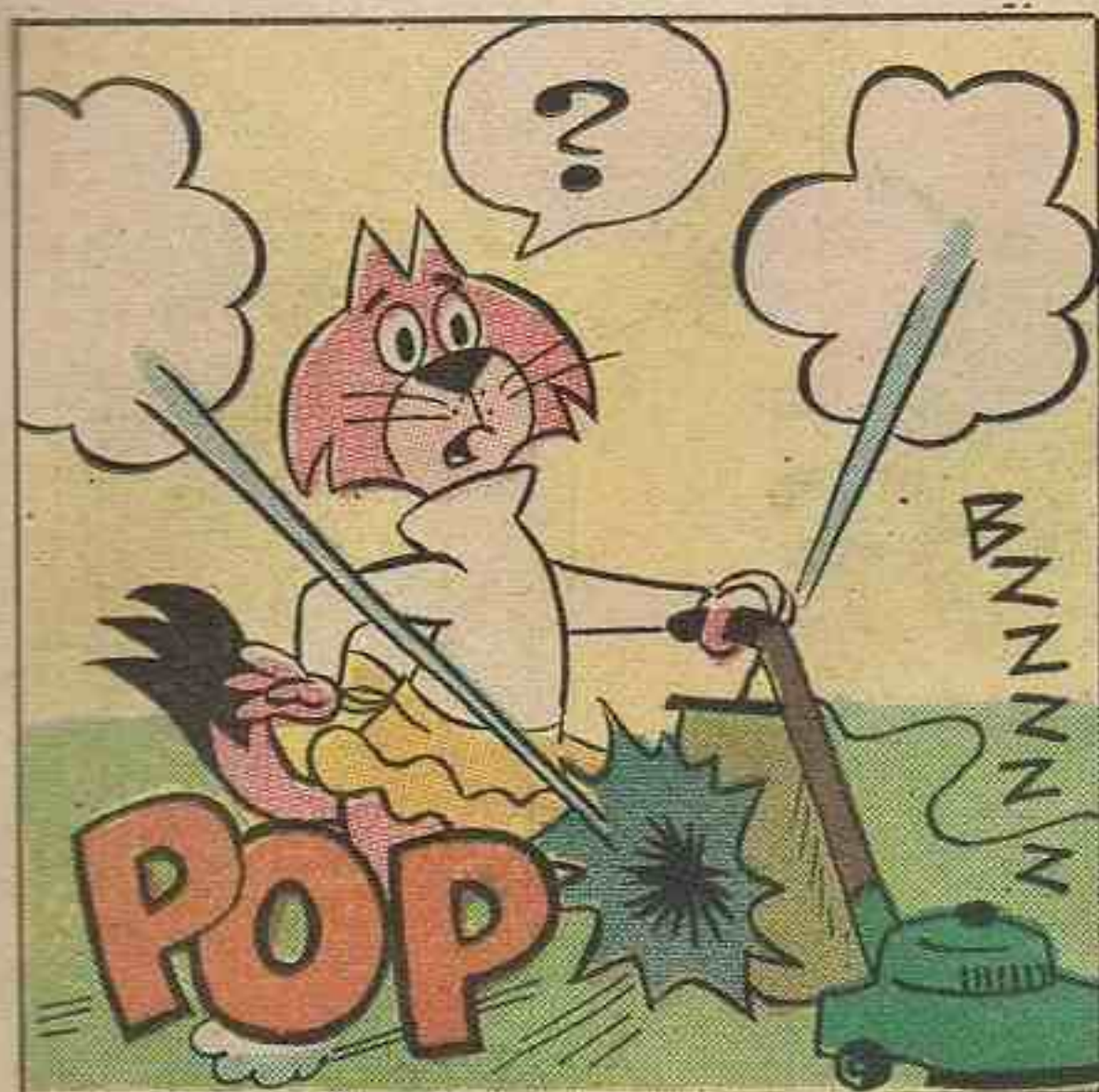


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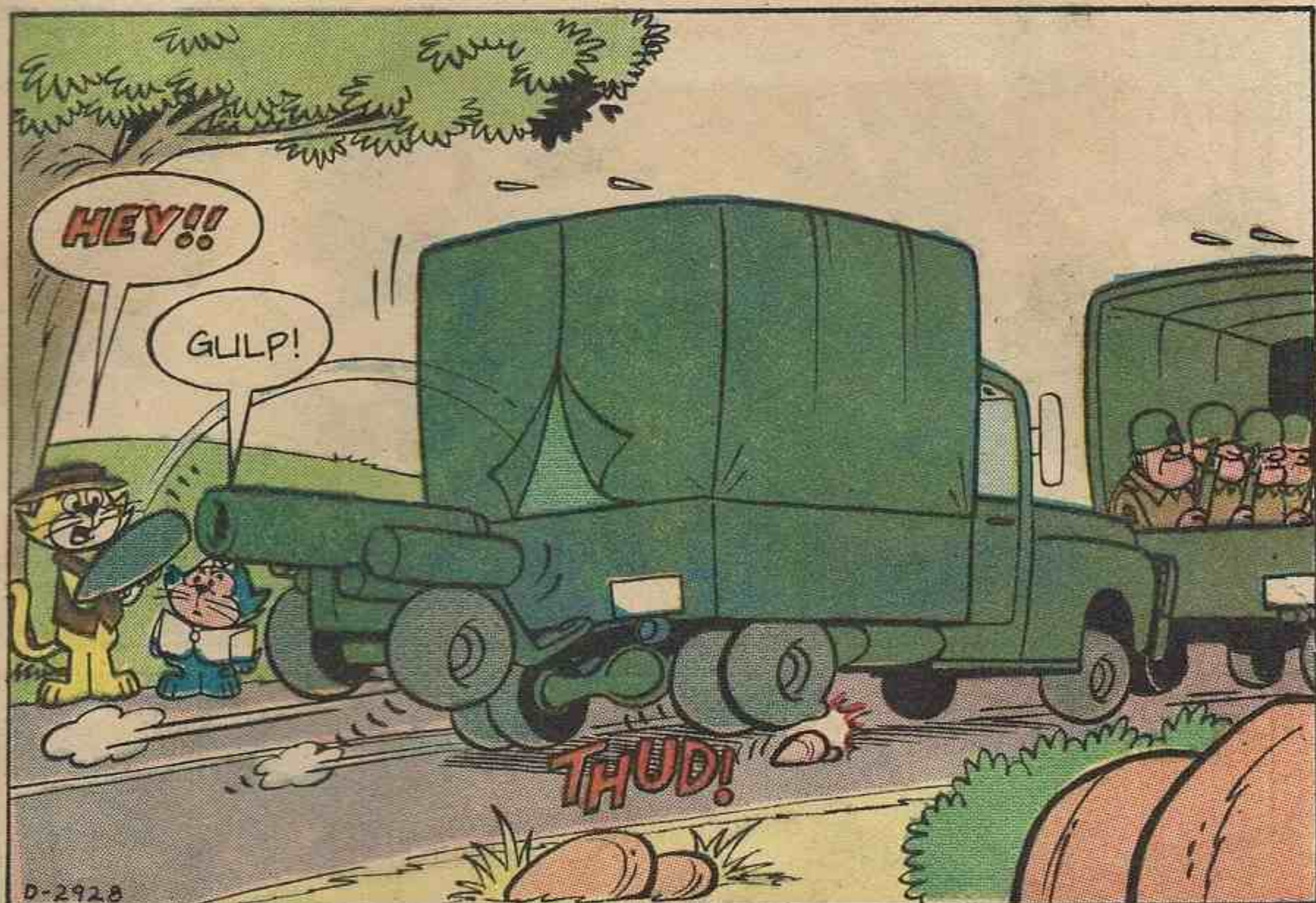








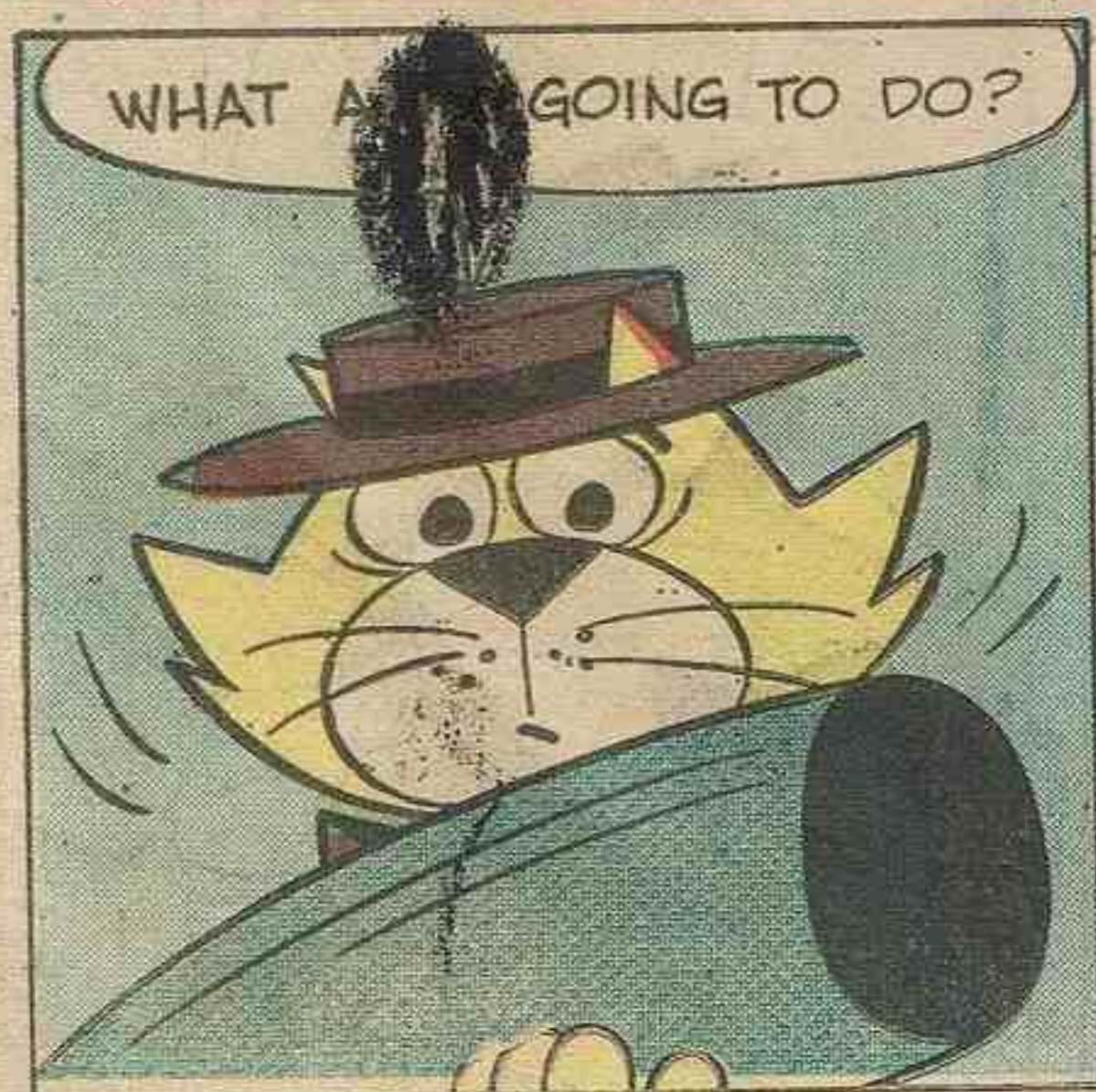




# TOP CAT "THE SHELL GAME"

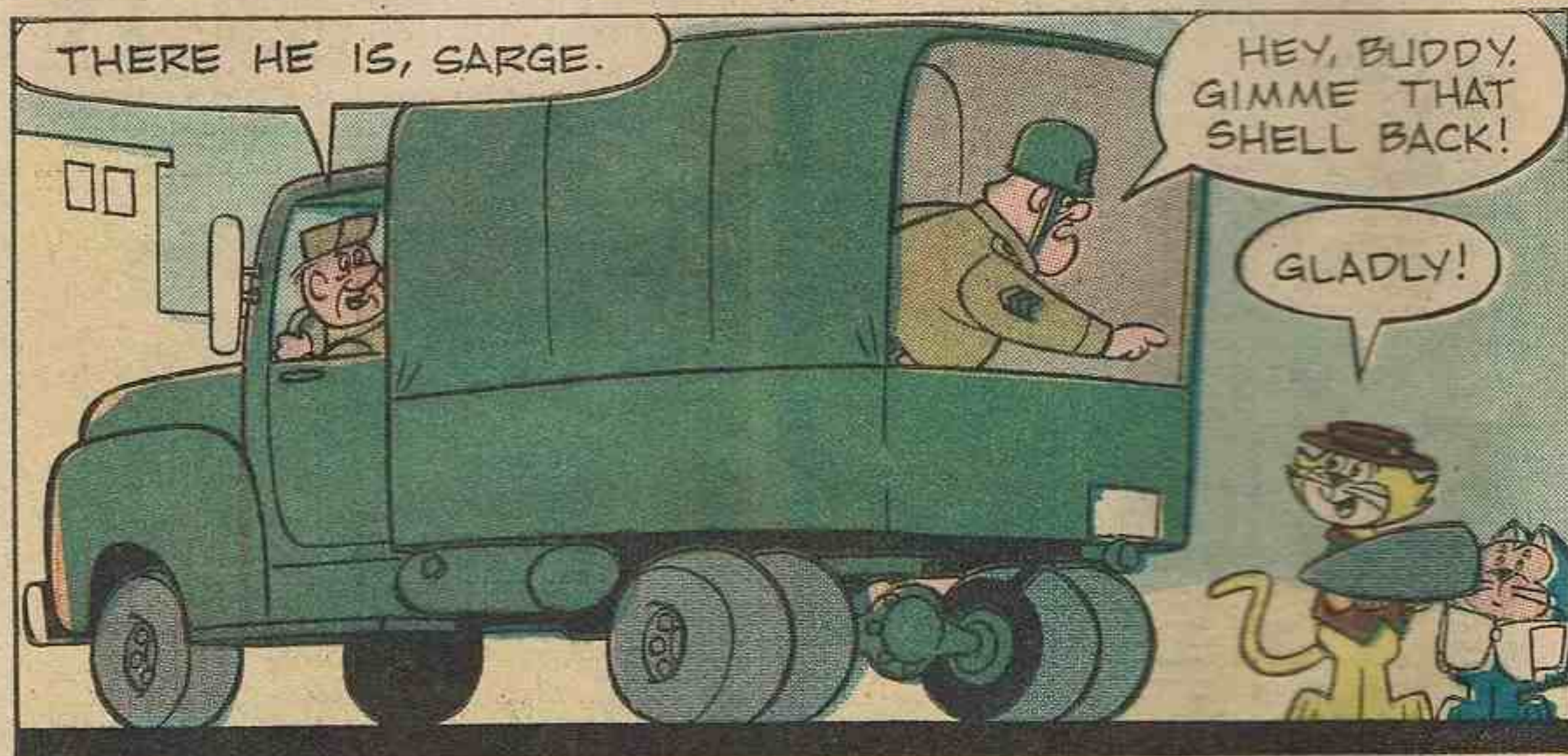






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# PEDRO'S PARDON

When he was ten years old, Pedro Montego was an illiterate orphan boy. He lived with his uncle Franco Cedula and the only daughter of his uncle, Irene. The uncle was coachman to the Viceroy of Mexico, Count Ferdinando Salmaga. The coach itself was covered with gold leaf. And instead of being drawn by four horses—was drawn by four mules. It was the only coach to have the distinction. Because the Viceroy was so jealous of his fast four mules, he passed a law forbidding any other person in Mexico City to have such a coach.

Irene Cedula was in love with Luis Rivera. She dreamed of the day when they would be married. He had only one big fault. And this was his temper. When he became angry he would draw his sword and say: "Those are fighting words. Either apologize or feel the edge of my sharp blade."

And because of his reputation as a swordsman, he always got the apology. That is always until the fateful Thursday morning! As far as we can gather the facts, it all started over nothing at all. A new government house was being built. One group of workers were under the command of Luis Rivera. The other group of workers were under the command of Pedro Noriega. Lately arrived from Spain to try his luck in New Spain. There were stories that he had fled from Spain. Seems he had duelled three men at a time and sent them all to the other world.

There was a lively competition between the two groups of workers. To see who could lay more stones on their section of the wall.

"Your men are nothing but sick little babies," shouted Pedro Noriega.

"And your men are nothing but pigs who do not belong here," replied Luis Rivera.

"And your men belong in the kitchen not here," taunted Pedro Noriega.

"And you and your men should eat mud for lunch," replied Luis Rivera.

Nobody could tell the same version of what happened. The duel took only three minutes. When it was over, Pedro Noriega was no longer in command of anything. And he wasn't the best swordsman in Mexico. And Luis Rivera was in the hands of the Royal Police. The law was that all duels were forbidden. He who broke the law and killed a man was to be hung.

Poor Irene was heartbroken. Nothing but a miracle could save the man she loved. And he, alas, knew he was doomed. He had some money saved up. So he suggested that they be married and as his widow she would get all his possessions. So they were married the day before his execution. All the women of Mexico City went to the place of the Viceroy.

"Pardon Luis Rivera," they shouted. "Do not let Irene be a widow. He is too young to die."

The Viceroy realized the tragedy of the situation. And so did Irene's father.

"The old law is still in effect," he said in the presence of young Pedro Montego. "If the Viceroy sees the face of the condemned man on the gallows, he must pardon him."

The hanging was set for 10 A.M. The Viceroy got into his coach. First the young boy climbed up into the seat for his uncle. He usually held the reins. Then gave them to his uncle and climbed down. But this time he took the whip—hit the mules—and the coach sped away, leaving a startled uncle behind.

Faster and faster went the mules. As though they were flying. And pedestrians jumped out of their path. The Viceroy was really scared. He held onto the strap from the ceiling of the coach. He figured the animals had gone wild. And then the coach stopped in front of the gallows. The young boy jumped down and spoke the words of his heart to the Viceroy.

"You see the condemned man. Now you must pardon him."

"Pardon! Pardon!" shouted the people. "That is the law of the land. Your Excellency has seen the face of Luis Rivera."

We suspect Count Ferdinando Salmaga was glad to find a way out. So Luis Rivera received a royal pardon right there on the spot. And Irene didn't become a widow.

When his Excellency went home he talked it over with his wife.

"A very bright boy," I understand. "And we are childless. We have so much to give him."

Thus he was adopted and later became the famous General Pedro Montego-Salmaga.





# TOP CAT "STRIKE"













# TOP CAT <sup>in</sup> COME HOME, LIL BRUTUS

LISTEN TO THIS AD! "I'LL PAY  
A GENEROUS REWARD FOR THE  
RETURN OF MY LOST DOG.  
LIL BRUTUS IS HIS NAME!"

FINDING A DOG IS  
EASY FOR US CATS.  
WE CAN START  
SPENDING THE  
MONEY.



D-3538

YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
LOOK FAR. HE'S RIGHT  
BEHIND ME.



THAT'S LIL BRUTUS?



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**GRRRR**

THAT'S THE BIGGEST  
DOG I'VE EVER  
SEEN!



HOW'RE WE GOING TO  
CAPTURE HIM, TOP CAT?

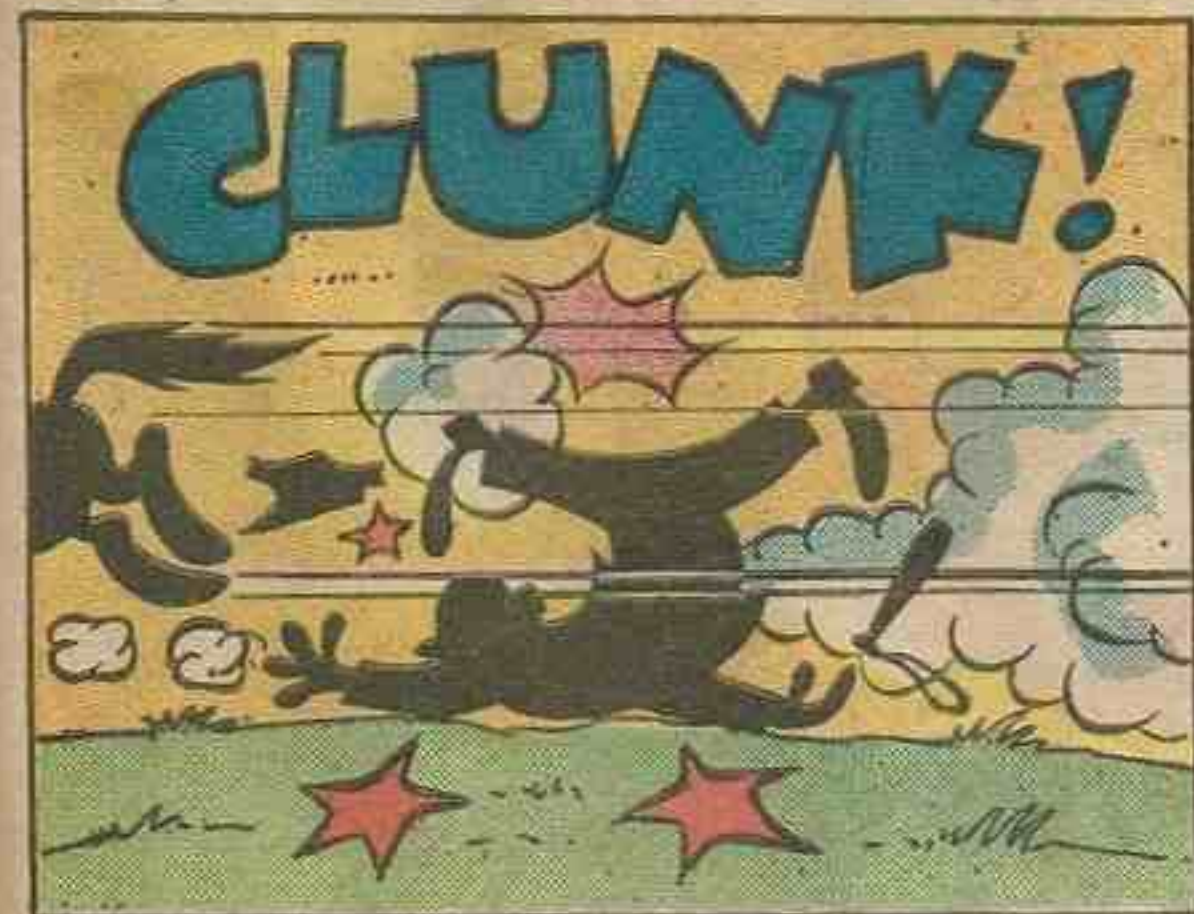
CHOD-CHOD, YOU'RE ALWAYS  
PUTTING THE CART  
BEFORE THE HORSE.



SAY... WHAT'S  
ALL THIS  
ABOUT?



**CLUNK!**



WH-WH-WHAT  
HIT ME?  
AN  
ELEPHANT?





